



Friday, May 13, 2016
Tel: 404-635-7200
public.affairs@gema.ga.gov
For immediate release

News Release

State Awards Town of Cohutta Funding for Warning Siren Project

(ATLANTA) -- Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, on behalf of Governor Nathan Deal, recently awarded a \$25,540 federal grant project to the Town of Cohutta in Whitfield County for the purchase and installation of an outdoor severe weather warning siren.

"Just recently we marked the fifth anniversary of the tragic destruction and loss of life from tornados in our neighboring county," said Mayor of Cohutta Ron Shinnick. "This Weather Safety Siren will be a vital tool in protecting both the lives and property of our citizens in and around our community. I sincerely hope we will never need it. But if we do, we now have this equipment at our disposal."

The amount awarded includes a federal share of \$18,516. The remainder will come from a state share of \$2,554 and a local share of \$4,470.

"Sirens are an effective means to communicate warnings to the public when they are outside. When used in combination with a NOAA weather radio, registering landline and cell phone numbers with Whitfield County's Code Red system and downloading the Ready Georgia app for alerts and warnings, residents can stay abreast of hazardous conditions related to severe weather and take the appropriate life-saving actions," said GEMHSA Director Jim Butterworth.

This award is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funds to state agencies and local governments. HMPG projects reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from the effects of natural hazards by breaking the repetitive cycle of destruction and reconstruction. These funds were made possible as a result of the county's participation and adoption of the Whitfield County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As part of the Office of the Governor, GEMHSA works with local, state and federal governments, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against man-made and natural emergencies. In addition, GEMHSA employees are on 24-hour call statewide to assist local authorities when disaster strikes. Go to www.ready.ga.gov or download the free Ready Georgia app to get information on preparing for a disaster and developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.

###